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TRAPPED ARMY SLIPS THE NOOSE Safely In Hamhung Perimeter After Epic But Costly Retreat

COMMENT

No fault can be found in principle with the modifications in the Colonial Development Act embodied in the Bill now under discussion in Parliament. The increase in the total sum, partly made necessary by falls in the value of sterling, has long been expected and in the increase in the annual outlay may prove an administrative convenience.

As on defence, both the Conservative and the Labour Party are united on the necessity for colonial development on a scale far exceeding anything contemplated before the war. Both, too, are agreed that it is an urgent matter as economic expansion is the solid foundation on which social welfare and ultimately, responsible government must rest.

Mr Creech Jones, former Colonial Secretary, said a few weeks ago "that quick results in colonial advancement were required. The rising demands for better living," coupled with the effects on population of preventative and curative medicine, "made the necessity of telescoping progress into a short period imperative." That, up to a point, is true, but just as many people are convinced that the pace of political emancipation now actually endangers the economic progress on which it depends, so are those who are doubtful that economic advance can be further telescoped without running very great risks.

It is enough to recall the ground-nut fiasco. And there are other directions in which the Colonial Development Corporation may have bitten off more than it can chew.

The mere granting of money is nothing in itself. Capital intended to develop new industries or introduce new methods of agriculture could be wasted unless the recipients possess the skill and the education to operate them. Though the need for caution may not be so great in the economic as it is in the political field, wise spending calls for patience. Neither Britain's credit nor Britain's prestige can afford any more costly monkey-nuts.

"Dunkirk" Operation May Be Staged: 13-Day Battle

Tokyo, Dec. 10.

Weary, bedraggled Marines, G.I.'s and a handful of British Commandos tonight settled into new defence lines on the Hamhung perimeter after a terrible 13-day fight to escape Chinese hordes which barred them south from the Chosin Reservoir.

HONGKONG DOES NOT IMPRESS

New York, Dec. 10.

The United States ban on shipments to Communist China, Hongkong and the Portuguese colony of Macao should be matched by other Western nations, particularly those which have received considerable American economic assistance, foreign trade officials said today.

They added that without such action, the achievement of the embargo's objective—the blocking of anything likely to sustain the Chinese Communist war effort—was highly doubtful, since supplies of rubber, metal and other materials would still be available.

Traders said that Hongkong's ban on the export of a long list of strategic materials—apparently in response to the United States restrictions and possibly to open the way to the licensing of needed American imports—was not expected to ease the new American export controls.

The officials claimed that the American regulations, especially if carried out by other countries, could strengthen the United States' hand in any negotiations in Korea.

There was feeling that Singapore might be included in the proscribed areas.—Reuter.

Sabotage Of Transport

Seattle, Dec. 10.

Military officials have reported, after an investigation, that damage to the 12,000-ton United States naval transport, Marine Phoenix, in Seattle Harbour was the work of a "malicious crackpot."

It was first reported by Navy officials as sabotage.

The transport was docked here after carrying troops and supplies to Korea. Damage was estimated at \$200. Five electrical motors were said to have been damaged with a spike or an ice-pick thrust into armature wires. There have been no arrests.—Reuter.

GRASS FIRE

A grass fire covering several hundred feet of ground shortly before 7 o'clock this morning near the Yajumati railway station was put out after the arrival of a fire engine.

BLOODY FIGHTING

Monacing the evacuation beachhead at Hungnam were concentrations of enemy troops reported to be moving east and south toward Hamhung on three different roads. The strength of

Hugging carbines and sub-machine guns as they drove and marched down the snow-bound escape lane, 10th Corps troops entered the safety of the tight 15-mile beachhead strip encompassing Hamhung and its port of Hungnam, a few miles to the south.

This beachhead is well supplied from the sea and defended by a powerful Marine and Navy air arm, but it will be quickly encircled if the 100,000 or more Chinese in the North-East follow through.

The costly 30-mile withdrawal from Chosin ended with the troops on top of mud-coated lorries speeding down the last lap to Hamhung—down a road kept open by a 3rd Division task force sent north to help their escape.

A 10th Corps spokesman said there were so many planes in the air today that "they got in each other's way."

An officer, after watching one young Marine riding on top of his duffle bag with frost-bitten legs swathed in rags to the knees, said: "I have not seen anything like that since I saw newsreels of German soldiers captured at Stalin-grad."

The Marines were the proudest of not leaving any of their dead or wounded behind. One Marine remarked: "We did not do that and we never will."

Major General Edward Almond, the Commander of the 10th Corps, is defending the Tobruk-like perimeter with most of the American 7th Division, which had seen little action so far, the badly-battered Marine Division and the 3rd and Capital South Korean Divisions—two of the best in the South Korean Army.—Reuter.

The Chinese Communists slashed at the middle of the retreating column and hammered at its rear, but the hollow-eyed and battle weary troops streamed into Hungnam in bullet-riddled trucks, jeeps, tanks and tractors.

The column was hit twice today in the snow-covered foothills above Sudong, but an official spokesman said that the Marines fought off both attacks "handily."

As the troops poured into the beachhead from the northwest and north, the United States Third Division fanned out to defend the coastal pocket that soon will contain more than 60,000 United Nations troops.

An immediate withdrawal by sea—the biggest "Dunkirk" operation in American history—appeared to be inevitable, but no official would confirm it.—United Press.

Shark Rams A Canoe

Brisbane, Dec. 10.

A shark here rammed a canoe carrying two boys, made a nine-inch hole in the side, lifted the craft right out of the water and then chased the occupants to the shore.

The boys plugged the hole with a towel but had to make the last stage scrambling through the shallows with the fish a few feet behind them.—Reuter.

Ilse Koch In Insanity Ward

Augsburg, Germany, Dec. 10.

Ilse Koch, the "beast of Buchenwald" who is now on trial for atrocities against Germans, has been removed to the psychiatric ward of Augsburg Hospital, informed sources said tonight. The 44-year-old wife of the former commandant of Buchenwald apparently went berserk in her prison cell after hearing witnesses charge her with sadistic activities at the Nazi concentration camp, informants said. Officials connected with her trial said the court's first business on Monday morning would be to determine whether she is really insane.—United Press.

Central Cooling



No doubt some earnest persons have from time to time devised a formula for the measurement of thirst. They might, for instance, multiply the temperature (in degrees centigrade) by the humidity (in degrees of discomfort) and divide by the energy expended in the game in progress or in strokes per hole, goals per chukka, runs per over. But whatever the variables involved, the answer remains constant. Take a long glass of Rose's Lime Juice with a couple of ice-cubes floating; hold it to the light and gloat over its pale translucent greenness, rock it gently until the ice-cubes tinkle. Then put yourself outside it.



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in the SUN

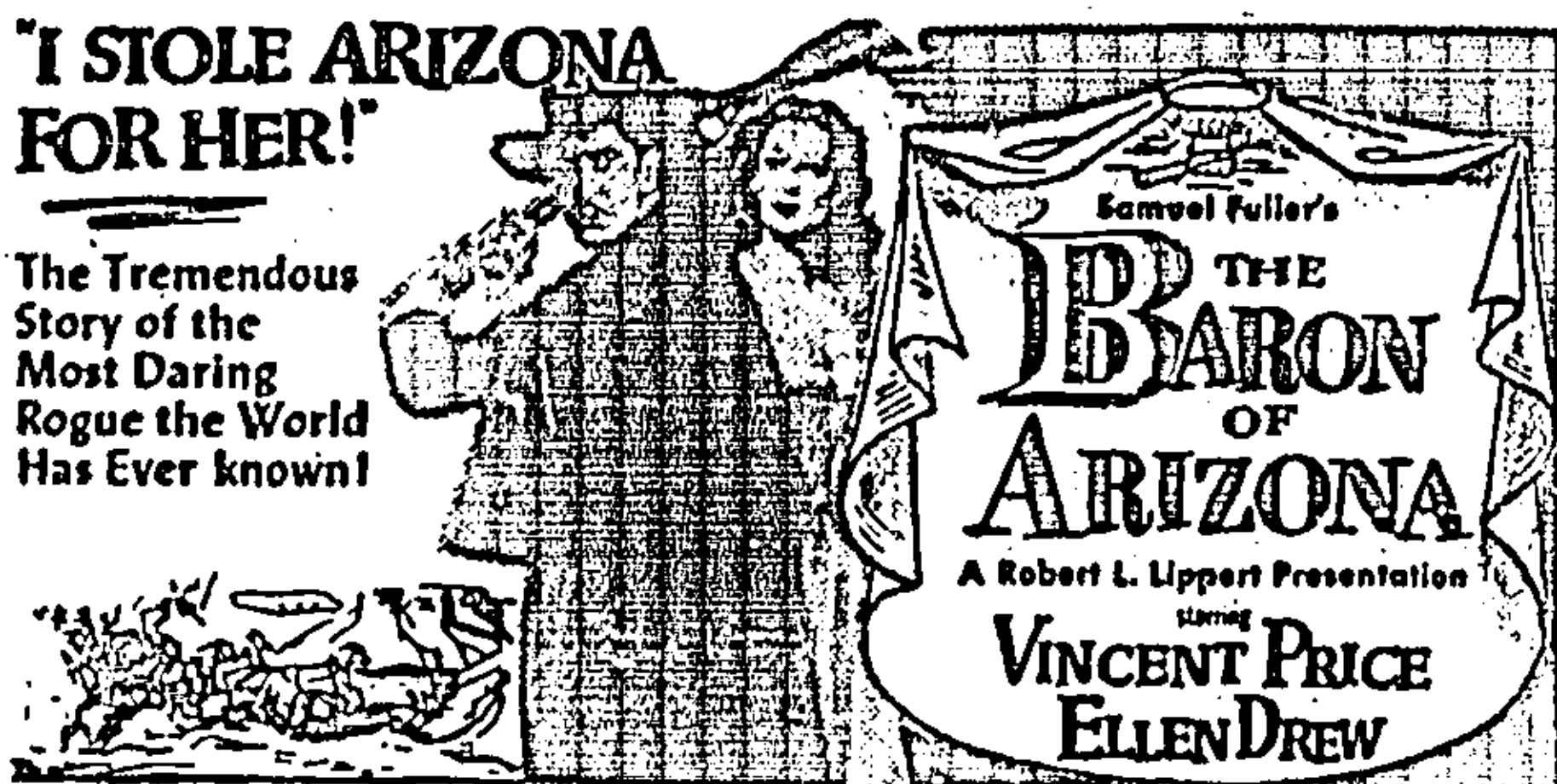
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HERBERT MARSHALL · LILLIAN GISH
WALTER HUSTON · CHARLES BICKFORD
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TO-MORROW

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FOR HER!"

The Tremendous
Story of the
Most Daring
Rogue the World
Has Ever Known!



SHOWING

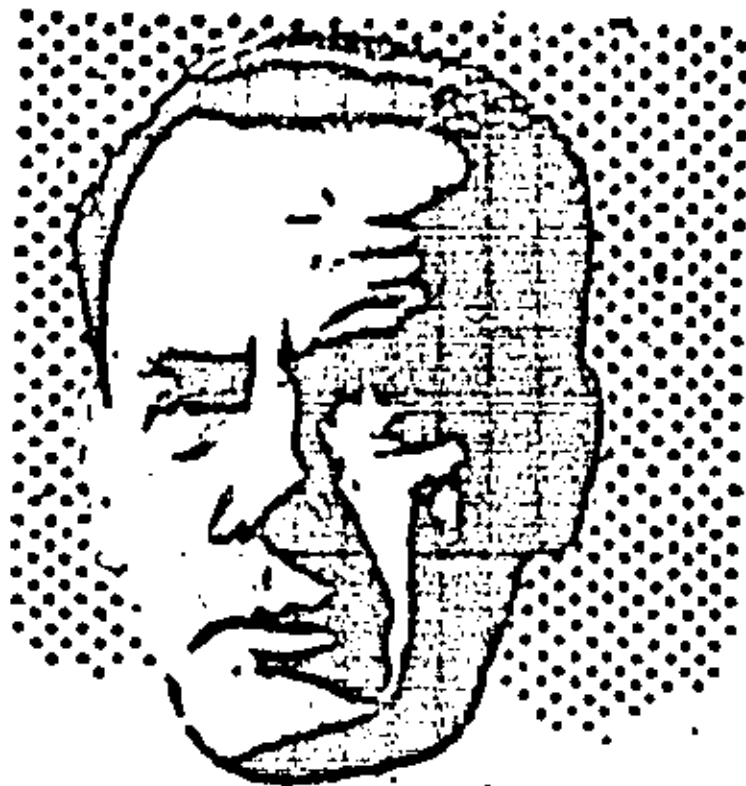
TO-DAY

MAJESTIC
AIR-CONDITIONED

AT 2.30, 5.20,
7.20 & 9.30
P.M.

Man of Science...
or Menace to Society?

Robert BEATTY
Mervyn JOHNS
Nova PILBEAM



Counterblast
Margaretta SCOTT

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A REAL LIFE DRAMA!

GINGER BRITTON in

"SOULS in PAWN"

THE HONGKONG SOCIETY
FOR THE
PROTECTION OF CHILDREN



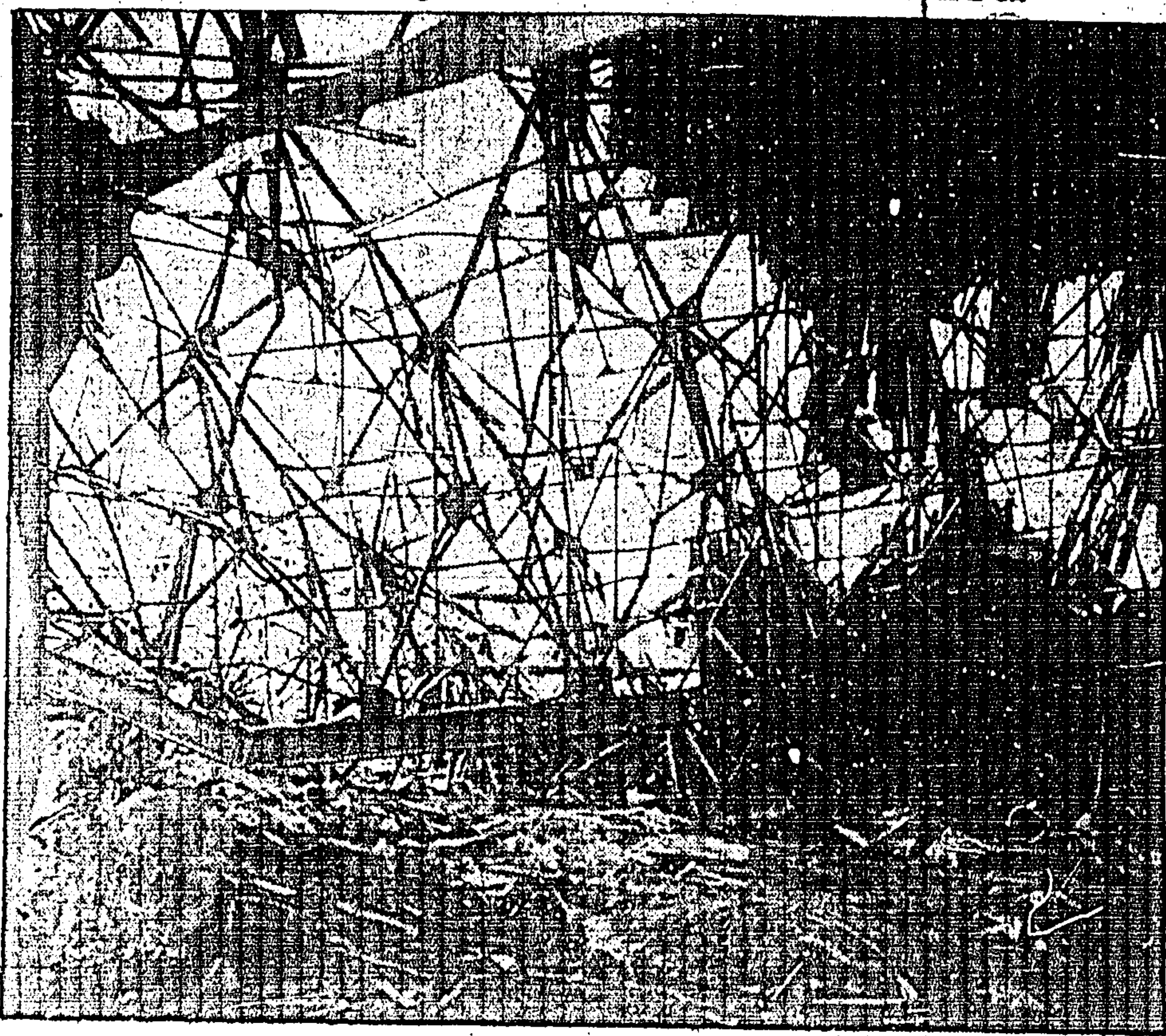
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SUFFERING CHILDREN
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**PRESS
PHOTOGRAPHS**

Copies of photographs
taken by the South China
Morning Post, South China
Sunday Post-Herald, China
Mail and Hong Kong Tele-
graph Staff Photographers
are on view in the
Morning Post Building.

ORDERS BOOKED

Completely Air Conditioned



Looking like a pile of burned-out matchsticks, this mass of wreckage is all that's left of a hangar on Wonsan airfield after a series of bombing attacks by American planes in Korea. (U.S. Air Force Photo from Acme.)

BRITISH MINISTER TAKES U.S. TO TASK FOR "MAD RUSH" FOR RAW MATERIAL

Lowestoft, Suffolk, Dec. 10.

A second British Government Minister criticised America's conduct in the Korea war today—this time, Mr Richard Stokes, Minister of Works.

He declared that he did not see how it could have been expected that the Chinese would remain quiescent with foreign troops of whatever nationality reaching up to the Manchurian-Soviet frontier.

He also accused both the United States and Russia of making a "mad rush" for raw materials.

Mr Stokes' criticism came exactly a week after the Defence Minister, Mr Emanuel Shinwell, had said that it appeared that General Douglas MacArthur, the United Nations commander in Korea, had gone beyond the United Nations' objectives in going up to the Manchurian border.

This was repudiated in the House of Commons last Monday by the Foreign Under-Secretary, Mr Ernest Davies.

Mr Stokes declared that the outcome of the Truman-Attlee talks was a considerable achievement for the British Prime Minister, Mr Attlee.

He added, "The first thing on which we must congratulate him is his achievement in getting the Americans to agree that there shall be a negotiated settlement about Korea. All authorities who have written even at this early stage about the last war say that without doubt the idiotic declaration about 'unconditional surrender' kept the war going at least an extra year. It may be that it is because of the realisation of that that we have the change today."

THE DIFFICULTIES

The Prime Minister's second main achievement, Mr Stokes said, was that he seemed to have persuaded the Americans to a more reasonable attitude on stock piling.

One of the difficulties here had been the shortage brought about by the "mad rush of the Russians and the Americans" for raw materials. It seemed that there was to be a high level agreement on a reason-

able arrangement so as not to interfere with production.

"If we go short of raw materials we are in a devil of a mess", Mr Stokes commented.

GREAT MISTAKE

Turning to Korea Mr Stokes said that it was one thing to kick a burglar out of your house but another to enter his. He did not see how it could have been expected that the Chinese would remain quiescent with foreign troops of whatever nature reaching up to the Manchurian-Soviet frontier.

He believed it was a great mistake that "our American friends" did not follow Britain's example in recognising Communist China as the de facto government.

"I can understand why but I cannot understand that they did not see the inevitable consequences must be that the men of the Kremlin would welcome the chaotic position that would inevitably arise both in the Far East and the West," Mr Stokes said.—Reuter.

RED JETS BREAK OFF

Seoul, Dec. 10.

Four Communist MIG-15 jet planes attacked four American Air Force propeller-driven Mustangs over the Yalu River today.

There was a short fight before the jets broke off the bat-

UN Troops Will Not Be Driven Out

Ottawa, Dec. 10.

The Canadian Government was reported today to be convinced, after the conference with Mr Clement Attlee, the British Prime Minister, that the United Nations army would not be forced to evacuate Korea by Chinese military action.

This report was strengthened by the statement of the Canadian Premier, Mr Louis St. Laurent, that his information was that the United Nations would not be driven out of Korea.

Government sources based their belief purely on military considerations.

It was understood that Mr Attlee and Field-Marshal Sir William Slim, Chief of the British Imperial General Staff, told the Cabinet that the relative strengths of the Chinese and United Nations forces at present justified the expectation that there would be no forced evacuation.

Informed opinion here was that Mr Attlee and Field-Marshal Slim were considerably heartened by the military reports and had passed them on to the Canadian Cabinet with the belief that the Chinese were not strong enough to drive the United Nations out of Korea.

It was understood that there was complete agreement between the British and Canadian viewpoint that the use of the atom bomb in the Far East would be politically disastrous and of little military value.—Reuter.

He and turned northwards over the Yalu River into Manchuria. The Mustangs were not damaged. They did not claim any hits on the Communist planes.—Reuter.

SEOUL FULL OF THE JITTERS

Nervous City Watching Closely For Any American Move South

Seoul Air Raid Alarms

Seoul, Dec. 10.
There were three "Red" air alerts at Kimsu Airport here tonight but no enemy appeared.
A civil airliner from Tokyo was turned back from the airport during one alert but it returned and landed without incident about half an hour later.
—Reuter.

American Dollar Notes Lose Half Official Price

Seoul, Dec. 10.
Seoul today is a gloomy, nervous city. The Koreans here are watching closely for any sign of movement by the Americans. And they themselves are preparing to leave the city.

Attlee-Truman Talks "Uninspiring"

New Delhi, Dec. 10.

The Washington communique on the Truman-Attlee talks was "distinguished" by the readiness of the United States and Britain to seek an end to the hostilities by negotiation, the pro-Congress Hindustan Times said in an editorial today.

"To the United States and Britain Europe has always counted far more than Asia in their policy calculations, so that, if in the interests of maintaining their strength in Europe, they should turn to seek a settlement in Asia now, it would only be in keeping with their policy," the newspaper said.

"The cease-fire proposal, which the Indian delegation, in consultation with other Asian delegations, is expected to sponsor in the United Nations, would provide an opportunity to translate the general desire for a peaceful settlement in Korea."

Though the phrasing of the Washington communique seemed "uninspiring," its contents were "reasonably solid," the European-owned Statesman said.

It added: "The agreement will doubtless be denounced in the United States as not strong enough. Despite the renunciation of appeasement, these may have to be appeased, possibly by the sacrifice of Mr. Acheson."

"Outside the United States, by contrast, some will feel that the statement of policy does not go far enough in indicating a basis for negotiation or in limiting dangerous commitments and re-directing strategic emphasis." —Reuter.

Cypriot Women's Campaign

Nicosia, Dec. 10.

Several hundred Cypriot women, meeting here today in the first Cyprus Women's Congress, resolved to campaign actively for the union of Cyprus with Greece.

The women sent greetings to Korean women, "who are in the front line of the struggle of peace." The "Progressive Women's Union," which organised the Congress, is a left-wing body with Communist support.—Reuter.

Who Will Catch This One?



A beach, a belle and a ball—definitely a combination where's no company but two could make a team. The lady is lazing in the south of France and her name is Lillian Courtin.

The won value of the United States dollar script has dropped to about half the official rate; prices for vegetables have rocketed; prices for furniture have slumped.

Even the price of rice has fallen steeply as prosperous Koreans unload their winter supplies in expectation of flight.

According to Koreans who are in touch with the temper of the people here, the Koreans would joyfully welcome Japanese troops—and that is saying something.

In the American Army Post Exchange (similar to the British Army canteen service), unlimited quantities of cigarettes and soap—items which until recently were severely rationed—are on sale.

In the Banco—the Americans' Officers Club—it was not possible to buy a whisky tonight, and in the dignified Chosun Hotel, where the gloom of the city infiltrated into the carpeted halls and leather-covered lounge—there were only two bottles of wine—French wine—in the bar.

BREAKDOWN

The Korean Legislative system faced a complete breakdown tonight as panic-stricken deputies fled southward and left the National Assembly without a quorum.

The attendance at today's Assembly meeting was 65 out of 208 members. There were 72 at yesterday's meeting, 85 the day before and 87 the day before that.

The Assembly had not been able to hold a formal meeting for four days because the necessary quorum of more than half its members—at least 104—has not been present.

The Government tonight faced the choice of either making attendance compulsory or moving the Assembly further south. Party stewards, faced with urgent Government demands to pass important war legislation, combed the provinces for missing members.

An official source blamed "transportation difficulties" for the poor attendances. Opposition sources pointed out, however, that before the fall of Pyongyang last weekend about 140 Assemblymen were residing in the Seoul area and there was no difficulty in raising a quorum.

IMPLICATIONS

The jittery population of Seoul has not been slow to realise the implications of the Assembly's continued inactivity. Many people previously undecided whether or not to flee the capital have taken it as their cue for flight.

They have now joined the thousands of refugees already on the road to the south.

The press has severely criticised the absent Assemblymen. The Chosun Shin Mun said to them today: "You should be ashamed of this. Transportation difficulties are not the excuse for the lack of a formal meeting."

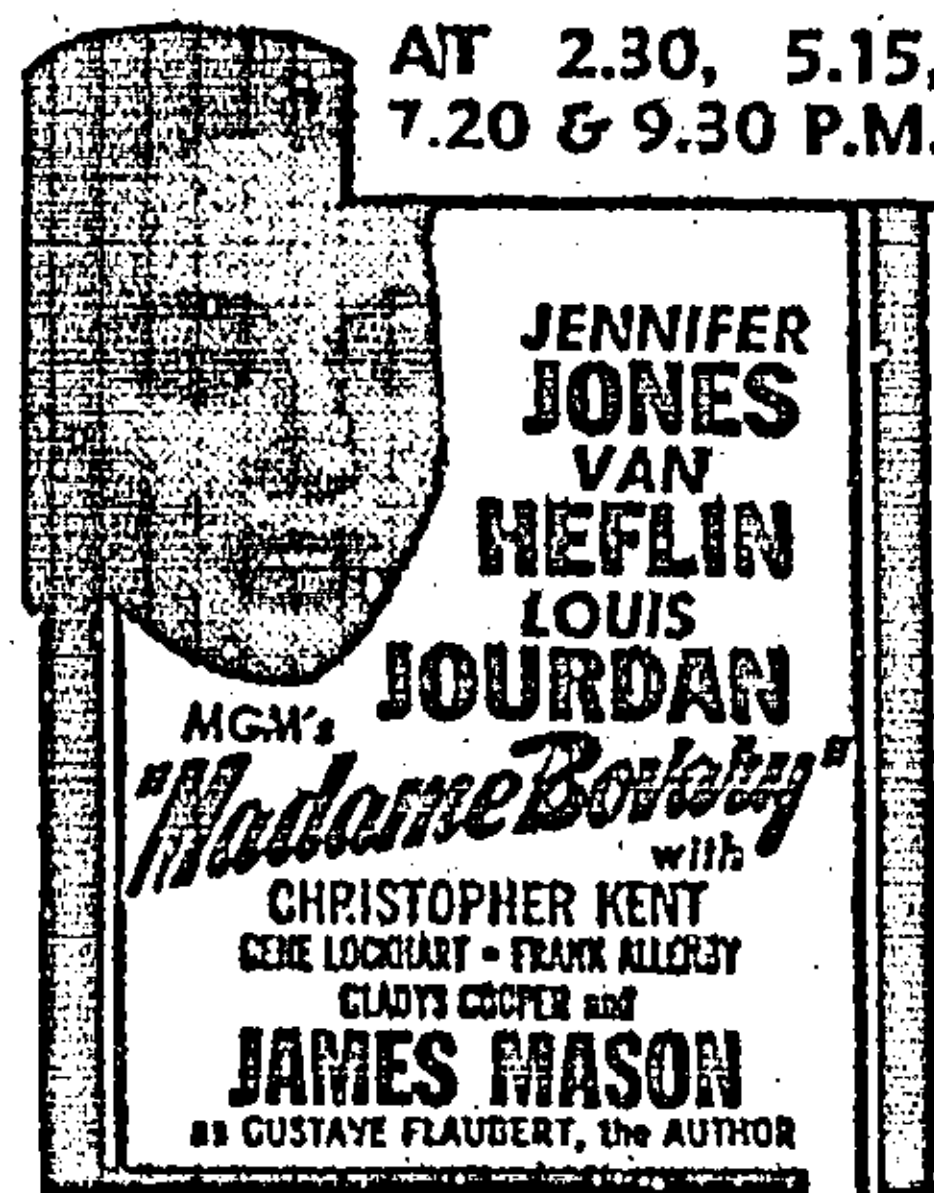
Parliamentary sources still in Seoul said tonight that unless absent members could be persuaded to return soon the Government would "seriously consider" moving the Assembly south within the next few days.—Reuter.



17, Hankow Rd., Kowloon

4 SHOWS TO-DAY

AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 P.M.



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ADDED Movietone News:
Vyvyan Donner's Christmas Diamond Fashions.

Queens

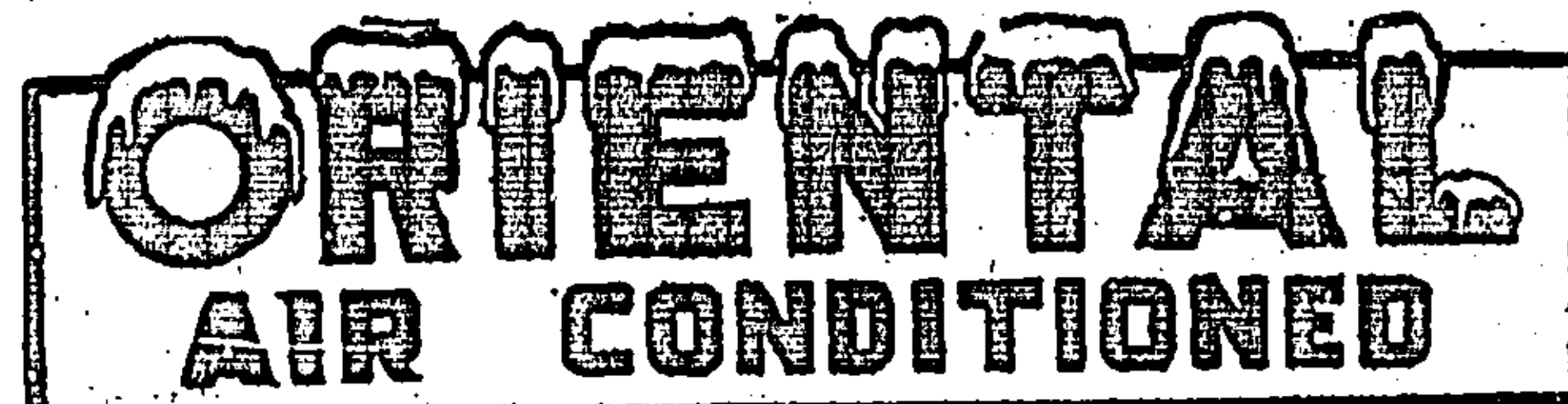
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WORLD PEACE AND FREEDOM

Mr. Attlee Speaks On British And American Objectives



This picture from Malta shows the Governor, Sir Gerald Creasy, welcoming Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands (who was in London recently) on the latter's arrival to inspect the Dutch naval squadron at the George Cross Island.—Central Press.

De Gaulle Calls For Formation Of New Government

Paris, Dec. 10.

General Charles de Gaulle tonight called for the formation of a new Government under his leadership and a general election in France.

Speaking at Lille, Northern France, he said: "It is plain that under its present regime France is drifting. The Republic cannot stay where it is. The present is already too hard, the future is too threatening."

"There is one solution. As for me, I am completely ready."

"It is necessary to form a Government which shall be above parties and touch the soul of France. It is necessary to rally the people of the country for its defence."

"It is necessary, while there is still time, to consecrate this call to arms by a decisive national consultation."

General de Gaulle called for an understanding between Germany and France.

"Certainly, after all that has happened, we need to overcome much suspicion and distrust to take the road of Franco-German understanding," he said.

"They unity of Europe depends on a direct agreement between the German and French peoples."

General de Gaulle said that the member nations of the North Atlantic Pact must organise their defence on the "most advanced line" and "solid advance posts must be established."

The alliance must have some practical value. The pact must be to the advantage of all States and not only one, he said.

"The limitation of initial American support to, for instance, the defence of the British Isles would be the most serious of economic, political and strategic errors," General de Gaulle said.

"I say to the Americans: You insist very much that others define their plans and actions, but you yourselves to do the same have no time to lose."

About 10,000 people listened to General de Gaulle's speech.—Reuter.

Rumanian Actor Passes

Hollywood, Dec. 10.

The Rumanian character actor, Georges Metaxa, 51, died on Friday night in a hotel in Monroe, Louisiana, friends reported today.

The actor, who had long suffered from a heart condition, collapsed there when he and his wife, the former Swedish socialite, Margaret Brostrom van Kuyles, returned from a seven-month European trip.

United Nations Only Way To Achievement Of Aims

Ottawa, Dec. 10.

The British Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, in a nation-wide broadcast here tonight, said that there was complete agreement between the British and American peoples on the objectives of peace and freedom for all men.

Mr Attlee said that both nations were agreed that the way to achieve these objectives was through the United Nations Organisation.

Mr Attlee made a seven-minute broadcast at 10.10 p.m. local time, the peak hour for listening in Canada. He had earlier made a one-minute broadcast in French saying that he was happy to meet the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Louis St. Laurent again.

Mr Attlee said, "You will have read or heard the communique that President Truman and I, issued after our talks in Washington last week. I shall not say very much about that now because my first duty is to my colleagues in the United Kingdom Government and to the House of Commons at Westminster."

"But this I would like to say: there is complete agreement between ourselves and the Americans on the objectives we seek to reach."

"These are very easily summed up: peace and freedom for all men with the opportunity to develop their lives happily and in their own way."

"We were also agreed that the instrument by which these objectives must be attained is the United Nations Organisation. There is no other way as Mr Lester Pearson, Minister of External Affairs, said in his notable broadcast from Lake Success last Tuesday."

NEED FOR TOLERANCE

"The members of the Commonwealth of Nations have a long experience of freedom and democracy. We are accustomed to working together on terms of perfect equality. We understand the need for tolerance and understanding of other people's views. We have therefore much to contribute to the furtherance of the ideals for which the United Nations stand."

"If we can so strengthen the United Nations that its members act with the same remarkable co-operation that the members of the Commonwealth have always shown in times of trouble, the world would have no need to fear aggression."

"When the ideals for which we stand are threatened we react in the same way instinctively."

"We in Britain shall never forget how Canada came to our help without delay when in both 1914 and 1939 the ideals that we share together were attacked. Nor shall we ever cease to be grateful for your generous understanding and help in peace."

"Now, once more, when the free world is menaced you are again coming forward in helping to build Western defences. You and we and the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, President Truman and I talked to good purpose about this Organisation last week and I have every hope that we shall soon be able to announce that a supreme commander has been appointed."

MENACING NO ONE

"This Organisation menaces no one. Its creation has been forced on us all by those who fear and dislike our way of life. Its purpose is to defend that way of life and to guard the peace by action as a deterrent to aggression."

"The world's problems are urgent and pressing and we can best hope to solve them when we can talk freely to one another across the table. Our governments are admirably represented abroad in each other's capitals but the day to day consultation which goes on is usefully supplemented by the

sort of conversations that we propose to have."

"The greatest of all our problems today is the menace of Communist imperialism. There are many points in the democratic front where we are holding in line. Malaya is one example."

"I do not think that the world sufficiently realises how great a drain on our manpower and our resources is that unspectacular but violent struggle against the Communist effort to seize power in that particular part of south east Asia."

"Communism finds the most favourable ground for its propaganda in countries where poverty is widespread. For that reason we and other members of the Commonwealth have met together to produce the Colombo Plan whereby we can not only, in the interests of local inhabitants but in those of all the free countries as well, help to demonstrate to the peoples of the world that freedom and democracy can bring them greater advantages than the slavery which lies behind the specious promises of the Communists."

"Let me end by saying that I go home well content with the results of my visits to Washington and to Ottawa and comforted and inspired once more by the knowledge that the desire and views of this country are identical with our own."—Reuter.

Price Control Measures Predicted

Washington, Dec. 10.

The chairman of President Truman's Council of economic advisers, Mr Leon Keyserling, predicted today that some price controls would soon become necessary.

He made the statement as Mr Truman weighed urgent recommendations from Congress and the military leaders that he declare a state of national emergency to put impetus behind home front mobilisation.

Mr Keyserling emphasised that wage and price controls would be only a "superficial" weapon against inflation unless they were accompanied by a sharp expansion of production and still higher taxes. But he added, "I think some will soon become necessary."

Some of President Truman's advisers believed a declaration of national emergency might shock the nation out of its "business as usual" attitude and help to hold the line against inflation until wage-price control machinery could be readied.

Informed sources said Mr Truman had not yet made up his mind. He might hold off until after the meeting here on Wednesday between top government economic officials and executives of General Motors and Ford Motor Company.—United Press.

Crash Caused By Racketeers

Barcelona, Dec. 10.

Blackmarketeers were believed to have been responsible for a collision between two trains in which eight people were injured at Clet, on the outskirts of Barcelona.

It was believed that they pulled an emergency brake on one of the trains in order to throw out sacks of foodstuffs to waiting accomplices. While the train was stopped another train ran into the rear.—Reuter.

ALL QUIET ON EIGHTH ARMY LINE

Eighth Army Headquarters, Dec. 10.

Communist troops were sighted tonight moving south only 30 miles from the 38th Parallel—the dividing line between North and South Korea.

United Nations fighter pilots reported that they had strafed about 500 troops in the So-hung area of North-west Korea.

The Communists, reported to be 30 miles north of the Parallel, did not make contact with the main United Nations line, which is now drawn up somewhere north of the South Korean frontier.

Units all along the North-Western frontier reported "all quiet" again tonight for the seventh consecutive day, but air and intelligence reports continue to flow into this Headquarters telling of large-scale Communist troop movements to fill the vacuum left by the United Nations Army in its large-scale withdrawal to the south from Pyongyang.

The Eighth Army had scattered engagements with the North Korean troops now operating 35 to 55 miles north of Seoul. Reports from the area, said Gen. Walker was bracing for a Communist avalanche expected this week.

Peter Kalischer reported from Seoul that the United Nations forces will defend the Republic capital, but the extent of defence will be decided only after the Chinese attack is launched.

Enemy troops positively identified as Chinese were reported to be at Haju on the 38th parallel, some 70 miles west and north of Seoul. The only effective natural barrier behind which the United Nations army can make a stand before Seoul is the Han River just south of the city and the river does not block a possible Red advance down the eastern side of the peninsula.

General MacArthur announced early today that the port of Wonsan in north-east Korea, 50 miles south of Hupnam, has been abandoned after a five-day naval evacuation of the United Nations troops. The announcement said that American and South Korean troops were evacuated from Wonsan. It did not say how many troops were involved.—United Press.

'No Appeasement' Assurances Encouragement To SE Asia

Tokyo, Dec. 10.

High American sources said today that assurances from Washington that there would be no appeasement in the Far East will strengthen the determination of leaders all over south-east Asia to resist Communism.

The first assurance was given in the communique issued by President Truman and the British Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, after their talks.

MACARTHUR DISMISSAL DEMANDED

Washington, Dec. 10.

Senator Harley Kilgore (Democrat, West Virginia) proposed today that General Dwight Eisenhower be named overall commander of the Allied forces in the Pacific and in Western Europe.

He coupled his proposal with a demand for the dismissal of General MacArthur as Pacific commander, saying, "There is no place for sentiment in the selection or retention of men in positions which affect the lives of us all."

General Eisenhower's name has been put forward for appointment as supreme commander of the United Western European defence force being raised by the 12 Atlantic Pact powers, but since the European command will be under the Atlantic Pact and the Korean command is under the full United Nations, it was not clear how a single commander could hold both positions.

Senator Kilgore said General Eisenhower's appointment as commander for both the European and Pacific areas would do much to strengthen unity at home and to promote co-operation among America's allies.—United Press.

Colossal Budget For Air Force

Washington, Dec. 10.

The United States Air Force budget for this fiscal year has now reached a total of \$14,000,000,000.

But it will take from a year to a year and a half before the effects of the huge spending programme are realised, Mr Eugene M. Buckert, Assistant Aircraft Secretary, said tonight.

He was speaking to television viewers in a programme called "Battle Report".

The present goal of the Air Force is a strength of 84 groups by June 1, 1952, Mr Buckert said. The Air Force was at a 48-group level when the Korean war started last June.—Reuter.

But even more specific, informants said, was that of the Secretary of State, Mr Dean Acheson, to the Congress on Saturday that the United States is firmly and definitely against any appeasement in Asia.

Mr Acheson's statement was taken as a definite promise that the Anglo-American no-appeasement policy applies fully as much to the Far East as it does to Europe.

American sources said that Asiatic fears have been roused during the past week by reports from Europe which indicated that the top-level thinking there favoured virtual abandonment of the Orient to Communist aggression.

HOPES RAISED

These reports, the informants said, tended to undermine the Asiatic will to resist Communism instead of strengthening any idea of self-help.

Early last week, the Japanese-owned newspaper Nippon Times asked bluntly if Asia was going to be sold down the river in an attempt to save Western Europe.

But in a lead editorial today, the newspaper said, "The statement that 'there can be no thought of appeasement or of rewarding aggression whether in the Far East or elsewhere' raises the hope of not only the Koreans but of all Asia and of all free people that peace, freedom and security will be theirs, now and in the future."

This assurance was given in the Truman-Attlee communique.—United Press.

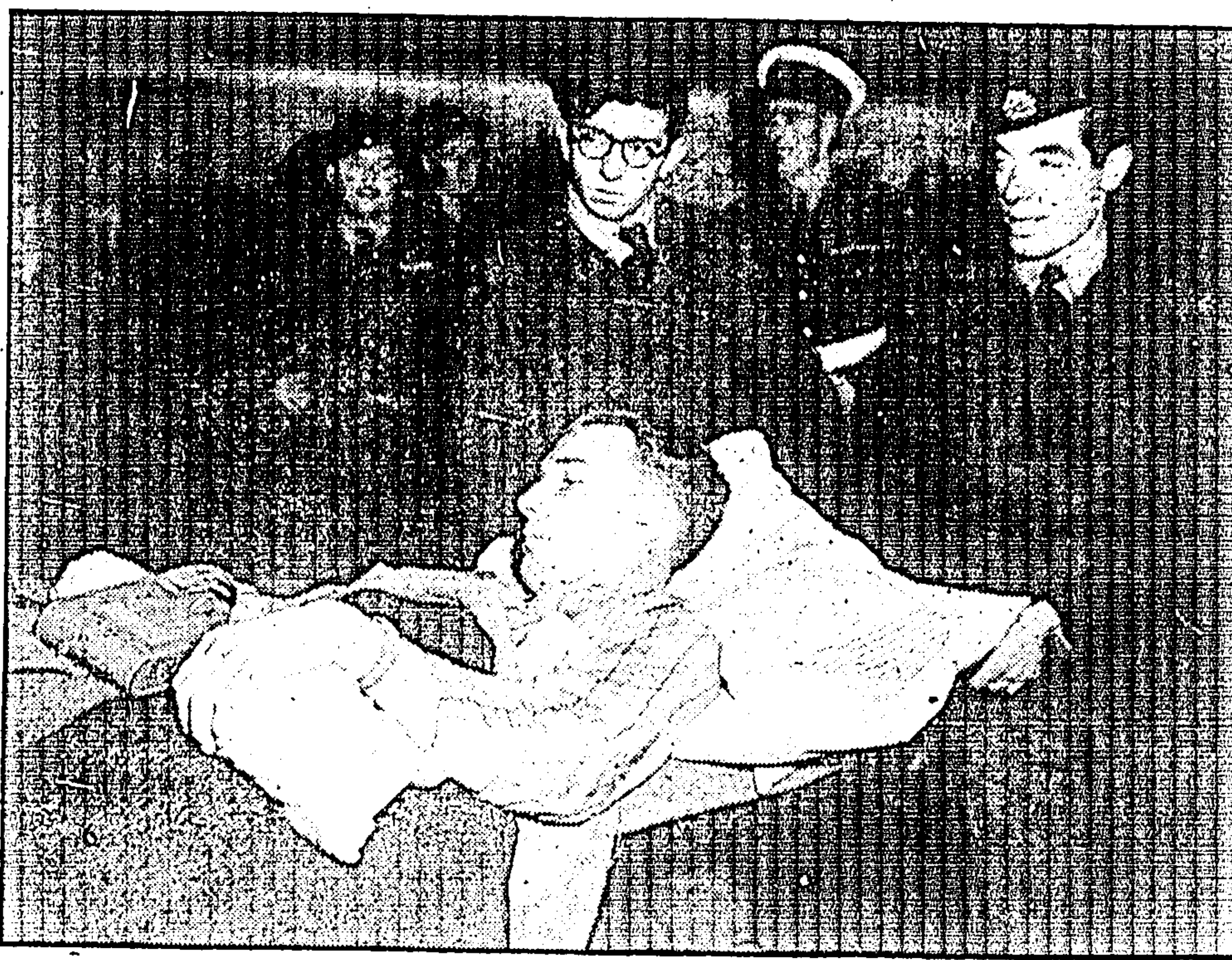
Claims By North Korea

London, Dec. 10.

General Kim Il-sung, the North Korean Premier, has claimed that the Korean People's Army and guerillas and Chinese volunteers have liberated almost the entire area north of the 38th Parallel and "a part of the area south of it".

According to a New China News Agency message received in London today, General Kim made the statement while speaking in Pyongyang last Friday to mark the "liberation" of the North Korean capital.

"Heroic People's guerillas, who have penetrated deeply into the enemy's rear, have begun to attack the enemy in every corner south of the 38th Parallel," General Kim was quoted as saying.—Reuter.



Lieutenant Gwlyn Davis, wounded in Korea, being removed from an RAF transport hospital plane at Lyncham airfield in Wiltshire. Many of the wounded have been flown to England.

Negroes Watch Dr. Bunche Receive The Nobel Prize

Oslo, Dec. 10.

Negro officers and men, with their wives, from the United States forces in Germany were among the distinguished guests, led by King Haakon of Norway, who packed the Oslo University Hall to see Dr Ralph Bunche receive his Nobel Prize today.

The 46-year-old American Negro, grandson of a slave and former Palestine Mediator, is the first Negro and one of the youngest men ever to receive the honour.

Among the guests were Crown Prince Olav, Crown Princess Martha, the Norwegian Prime Minister, M. Einar Gerhardsen, representatives of the Norwegian Government, the Armed Forces and the Corps Diplomatique.

In his short speech of thanks, Dr Bunche expressed his appreciation of the significance of the award, not only to himself as an individual, but to all coloured peoples.

Nobel Prize winners of past years were among the 2,000 people who packed the Hall to watch King Gustav award this year's Nobel Prize in Physics, Chemistry, Medicine and Literature.

As this was the 50th anniversary of the Nobel Foundation, past Prize winners were invited to attend and 29 were present.

Eight men were honoured today.

Professor Cecil Powell, of Bristol University, England, re-

ceived the Physics prize for his "development of the photographic method for the study of nuclear processes and his advances in this connection on mesons."

BERTRAND RUSSELL

This year's Literary prize went to the 78-year-old British philosopher, Earl Russell (Bertrand Russell) for his "versatile and important writings in which he has shown himself an apostle of humanity and freedom of thought."

William Faulkner, the 53-year-old American novelist, today received the Literary prize for 1949. This was not awarded last year because no candidate won sufficient votes from the judging committee.

Mr Faulkner, author of over 20 books on the Southern United States, received his award for what was described as his "vigorous and independent artistic contributions to recent American fiction."

Professor Emeritus Otto Diels, of Kiel University, and his former pupil, Professor Kurt Adler, of Cologne University, shared the Chemistry prize for their "discovery and develop-

Cairo Protest Over Sudan

Cairo, Dec. 10.

Ibrahim Farrag Bey, the acting Egyptian Foreign Minister, said tonight that the Egyptian Government had protested against a recent suggestion in the Sudan Legislative Assembly at Khartoum that the Sudan should be declared a self-governing territory.

He added that Egypt had taken all the necessary steps to maintain her rights in the Sudan.—Reuter.

America Getting Down To It

Washington, Dec. 10.

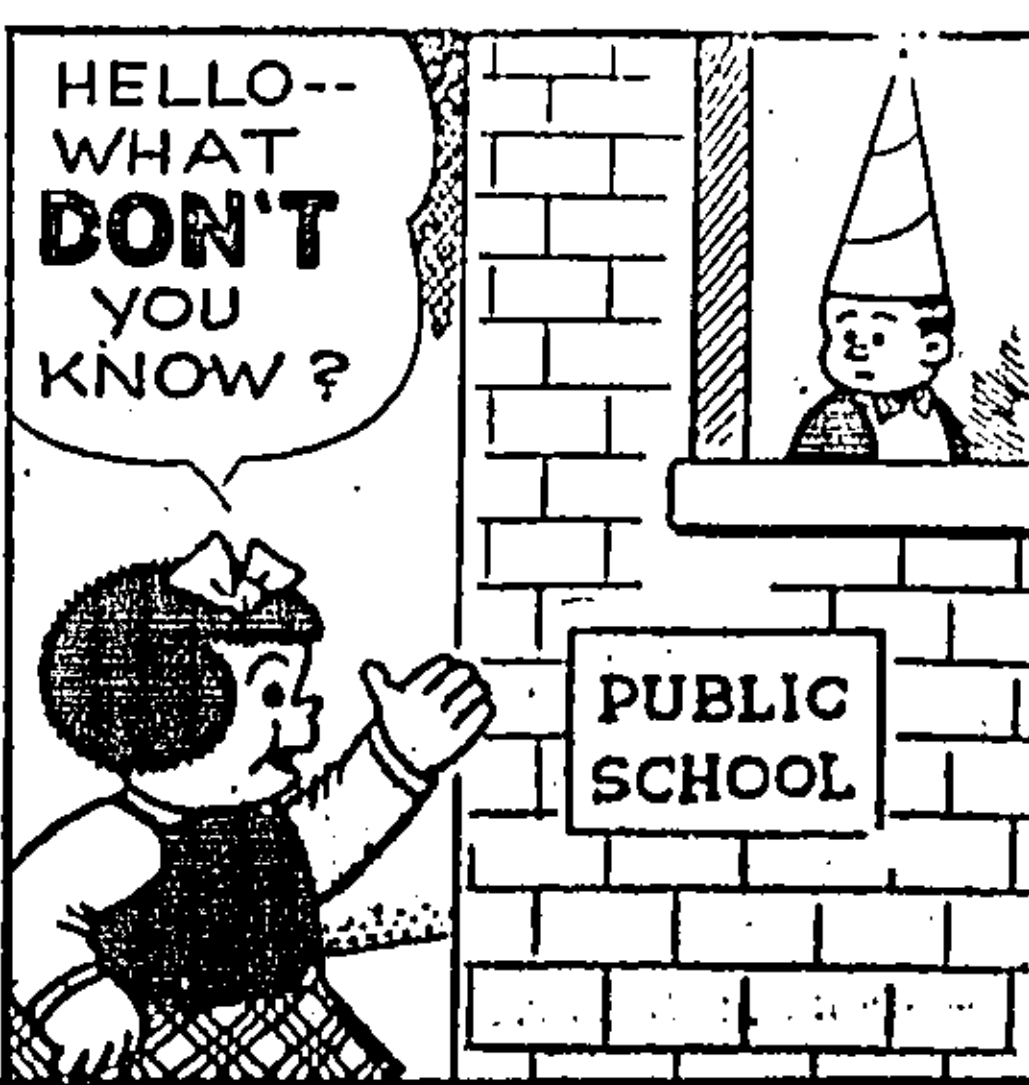
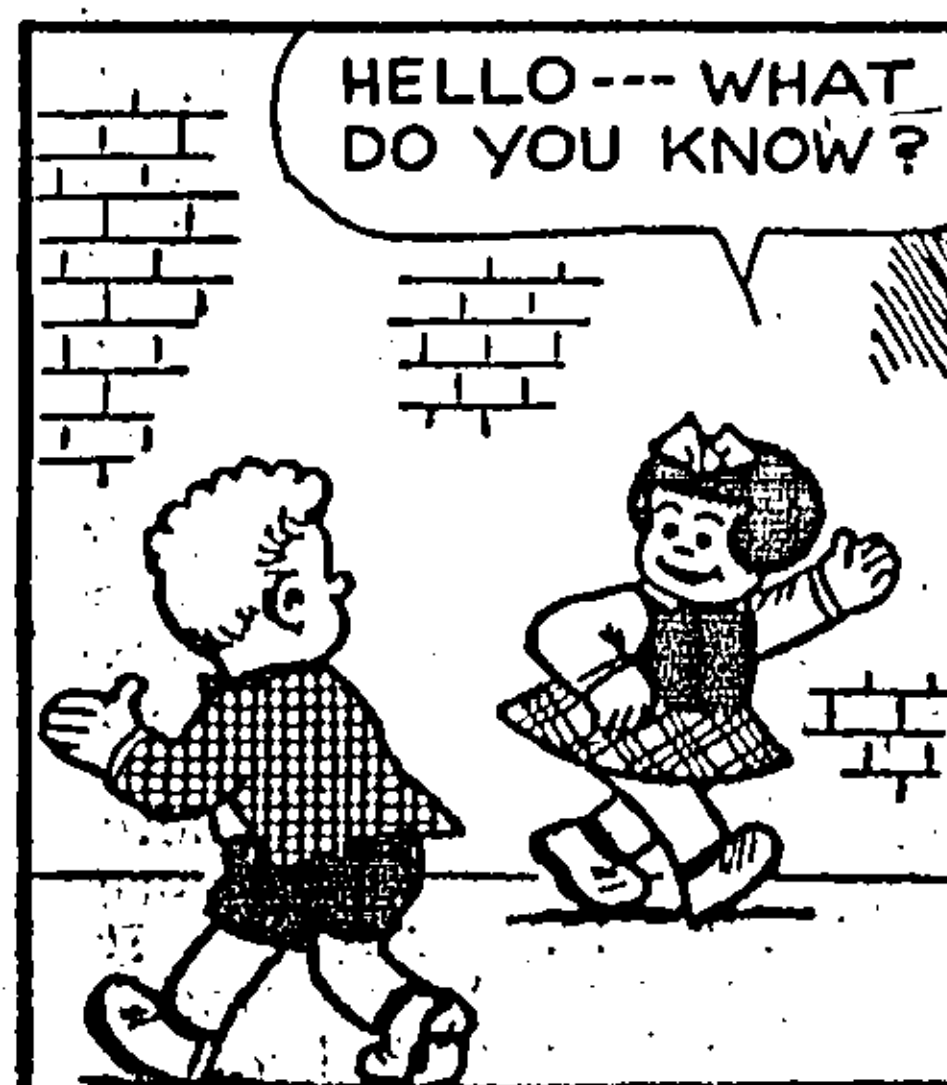
United States Government leaders today started the practical work of carrying out the Truman-Attlee programme for the defence of the free world against aggression, within 24 hours of its publication.

His hand strengthened by the statements of President Truman, and Mr Clement Attlee, the British Prime Minister, on the urgency of North Atlantic rearmament, General George C. Marshall, Secretary of Defence, urged immediate action by the Senate Appropriations Committee for increased arms production here and the enlargement of armed forces.—Reuter.

ment of the Dien Synthesis." The Medicine prize went jointly to Drs Edward C. Kendall and Philip S. Hench, of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, United States, and Professor Tadeus Reichstein, of Basel, Switzerland, for their discoveries concerning the supra-renal cortex hormones their structures and effects.—Reuter.

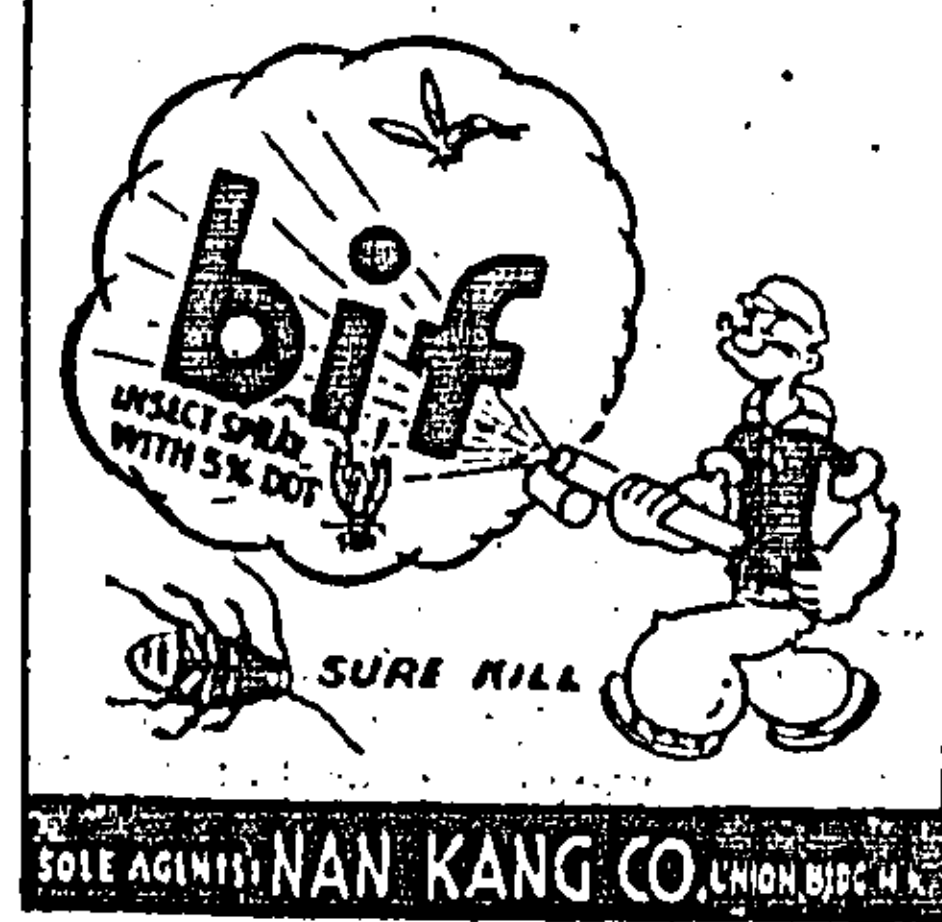
NANCY

Know Answer



By Ernie Bushmiller

When there's bif
I needn't use my fist!



WHATEVER HAPPENED AT THE FARR-WILDE INQUIRY?

By Archie Quick

What happened at the British Boxing Board of Control's inquiry into the Tommy Farr-Piet Wilde fight at Leicester? Exactly nothing! Which might have been expected.

It was called by Secretary Mr Teddy Waltham because he was at Granby Hall and heard rumours that the time-keeper and the referee accidentally failed to synchronise the count and that in fact Wilde was "counted out" in nine seconds. It would appear that the Board decided that the referee was right.

The most remarkable outcome of the inquiry is the refusal of any of the witnesses to talk. Boxing folk are usually the most voluble of people, but Wilde, his manager, the referee, the timekeeper and the promoter have kept as silent as the tomb.

Farr, however, has spoken to me—evasively, it is true. "They were all very nice to me," he said, "and why not? After all, I was not to blame for any fault of the officials. It was a good punch and I think I should have

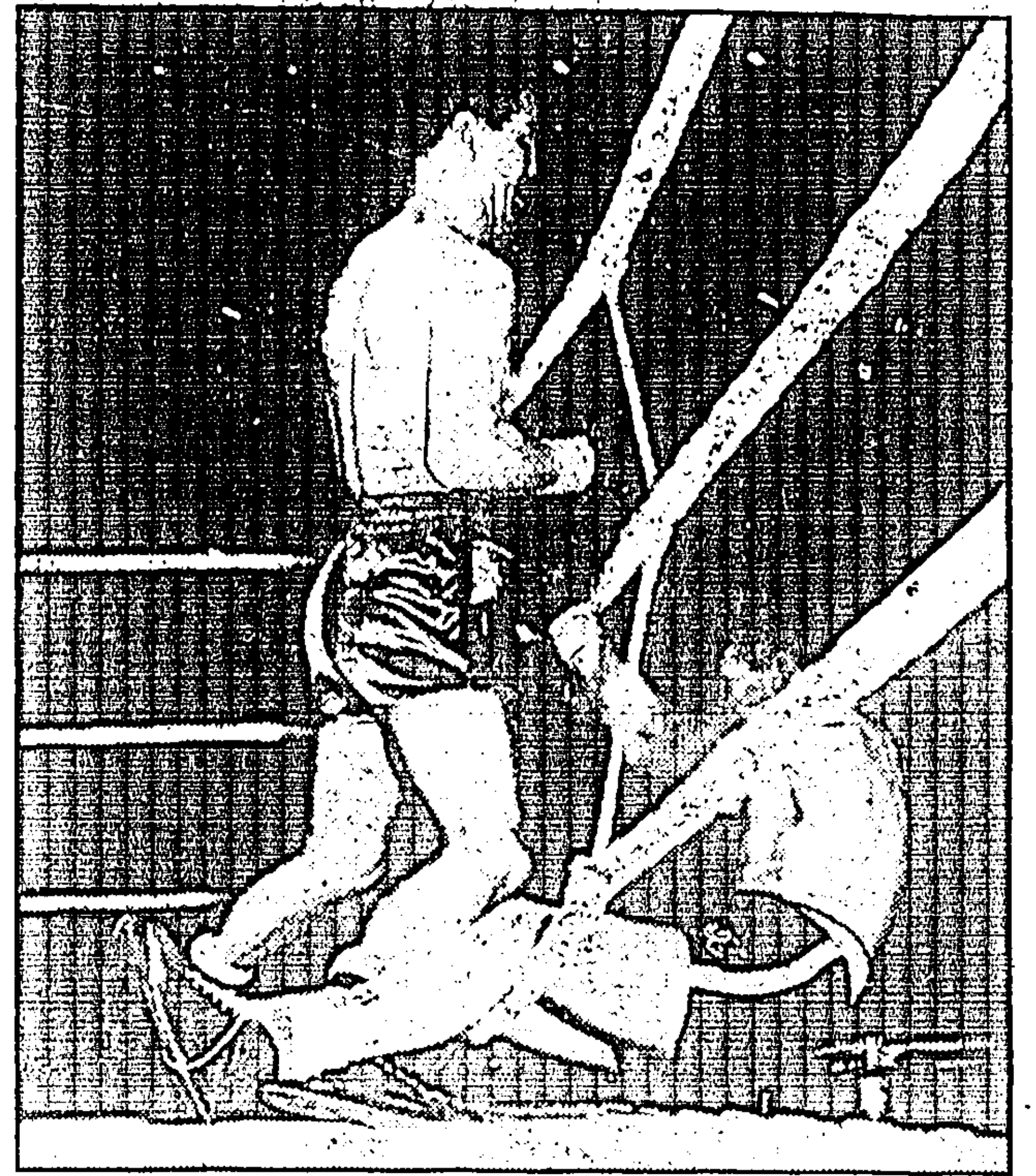
knocked him out immediately if Wilde had got up."

Now Farr proceeds with future plans. "The heavyweight championship is again within my grasp," he asserts. "I have been training at Brighton in the

same ring as the new champion, Jack Gardner, and I think my experience would be too much for him." Personally I think that Jack's youth, his strength and punch would be too much for Farr.

Meanwhile, it is significant that the Board of Control is to pass a rule that the age of referees and timekeepers be limited to 65. The two at Leicester were both over 70, so it may well be that that bout marks the end of the long and honourable career of Mr Moss Deyong. He has been controlling first class fights in every corner of the world for over 40 years—an amazing record.

THROUGH THE ROPES



Ronnie Clayton of Blackpool puts Jim Kenny of Glasgow through the ropes in the Featherweight Championship fight at the Royal Albert Hall.

Clayton won on points, retaining the British and Empire titles.

John Macadam's Column

CHELSEA DEFEATS WIN FANS £500

Once upon a time there were two men—well, when we say Once Upon a Time it was the beginning of the last football season—and, although they were keen enough on Soccer to be both seatholders in the Chelsea FC stand, they were also both interested in racing.

Well, they were naughty enough to fly in the face of the two Houses of Parliament and take an interest in such things as wagers.

Although they were Chelsea seatholders (which means that they had to watch Chelsea every second Saturday) only one of them was a true supporter of Chelsea. The other, at heart, was an Arsenal supporter.

During the close season of 1949 they talked of this and that, and maintained their friendly rivalry.

After an argument as to the prospects of their respective teams, one said to the other: "I

will bet you £1 on each match that Arsenal will win while Chelsea are beaten. In other words, you are on a quid every time Arsenal are beaten and Chelsea win; I am on a quid every time Arsenal win and Chelsea are beaten."

Well, this friendly bet was struck in the friendliest possible spirit, and when last season came to its close the Arsenal supporter—I should have told you that, in view of the Churches' and the Houses of Parliament abhorrence of gambling, they left the money in the kitty to be collected at the end of the season—was £7 up, as well befits an Arsenal supporter.

CAN AFFORD IT

Anybody who can afford a permanent seat in the stand at Stamford Bridge, and can face the way Chelsea play Saturday after Saturday, can well afford to stand outside seven quid, and it was not a bit out of the ordinary when the winner of the season's bet said: "Tell you what...we'll not let the money change hands. We'll put it on a horse. Or, better still, two horses."

The Chelsea supporter, a good sport, as all Chelsea supporters have to be, was keen on the idea of having another run for his money, and agreed, with avidity.

"The Derby and the Oaks," he said with considerable relish and, let it be said, some cupidity, which is a thing Chelsea forwards haven't been feeling about goals. "Let's have your entire seven smackers on the double."

So, children, they did. They had a £7 double on Galcedor, which won at 100-9, and Asmena, 5-1 winner.

Neither horse had anything to do with either Arsenal or Chelsea. They were both owned by Marcel Boussac, the Frenchman, and ridden by Rae Johnstone, the Australian.

The Arsenal and the Chelsea supporters collected some £250 each from the bookmaker, which is always a good thing, and the moral of this story is that, after all, it's worth while watching Chelsea.

—(London Express Service.)

Should Test Wickets Be Covered?

By Vernon Morgan, Reuter's Sports Editor

London, Dec. 10.

The first cricket Test match between England and Australia at Brisbane has brought in its train a suggestion that Test wickets should be covered.

Already there is fierce controversy on this subject in Britain and in Australia. Doubtless this battle of words is being carefully watched by the cricket authorities of the other great cricket playing nations like the West Indies, New Zealand, India and South Africa.

It seems to be quite certain that when the Imperial Cricket Conference next meets this point is bound to come under discussion.

The Australians argue that in their country at least a wet and sticky wicket results not in a better chance for the bowlers but in a completely farcical

situation like that which occurred at Brisbane.

It becomes, they say, no longer a question of skill. They argue that every attempt is made in other sports indoor and outdoor to give the performers a proper chance of giving of their best.

Why not, therefore, in cricket?

HARSH CRITICISM

There are even some harsh Australian critics who say that England deserved the financial loss incurred by refusing, according to the laws, to have the wickets covered after the game had begun.

With an eye to their own receipts they are believed to be already anxious to introduce legislation for the covering of their own wickets.

Apparently the Australians have asked that, when the South Africans visit them in the 1952-53 season they will agree to wickets always being covered throughout the games.

Of course, it can be so wet that even the covering of the wickets would not help, but the Australians are prepared to accept this as being something that cannot be forestalled.

The side that wins the toss has very often such an advantage that it has been mooted many times in the past that sides should take option to bat or field alternatively after the initial toss for the first Test.

With uncovered wickets the toss becomes of even greater import and the Australians, are mostly prepared to agree that Hassett won the first Test at Brisbane as things turned out because he won the toss.

The Australians think covered wickets would help remove much of this lottery,

even though it might tell against themselves.

The financial side cannot be overlooked even though one hates to feel that it must be considered. Sum like £5,000 are not to be disregarded and covered wickets might have meant at least this difference at Brisbane.

DIFFERENT LIGHT

The MCC will, perhaps, look at the suggestion in a different light. Wickets in England are never as badly affected as in Australia and the covering of them would not make all the difference.

Further, the parent body never likes a change of rules and it is a safe guess to suggest that even if the rules are altered they will be made local and national and not necessarily to affect all countries alike.

One can hardly see the MCC agreeing to covered wickets in England.

Many cricketers here have already said that they do not want them. They say that they would spoil the glorious uncertainty of the game, that it would rob the game of many of its finest thrills and take away from the bowlers the little joy in life that is still left to them.

One reason for not covering them is the question of getting a result. For years now every possible attempt and suggestion has been put forward to find a means, even by lengthening the duration of the games, to get some kind of definite result.

Covered wickets must inevitably tend to increase the probability of drawn games and, many think, to making for duller play.

It is certainly a tricky problem and one which is being argued in cricket circles the world over.—Reuter.

Easy Wins For Djurgardens And Hongkong

Manila, Dec. 10.

Manila's soccer season has barely started and after a nine months' layoff, local sides are not yet able to offer serious opposition to better-trained visitors.

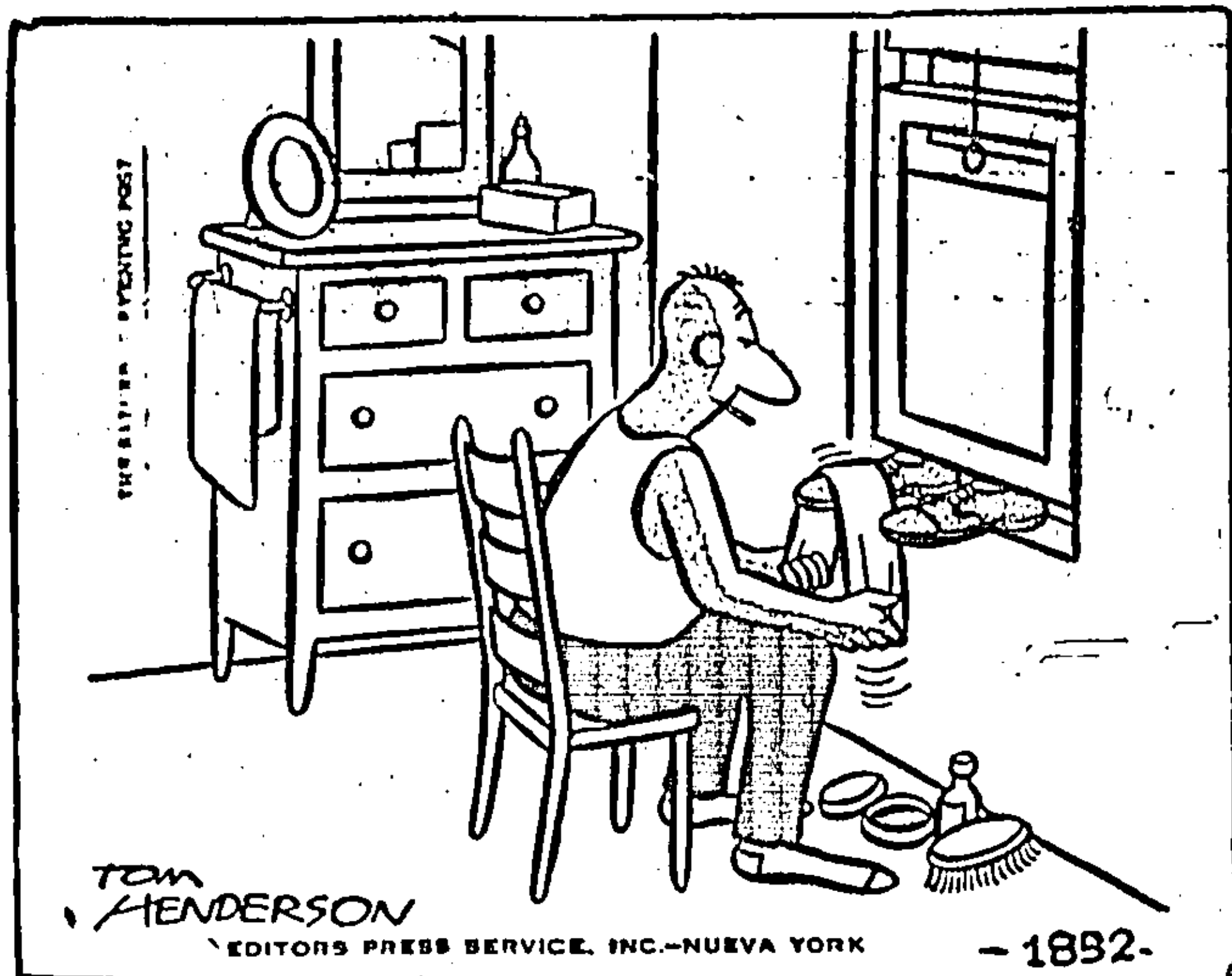
The Hongkong and Swedish teams, the first visitors this season, barely warmed up here this evening in games against local sides.

Playing against a National Collegiate side, Hongkong won by five goals to one. They led by 3-0 at halftime. Hongkong's goals were scored by Mok Chun-wah, Yau Chek-yin, Chu Wing-keung and Lee Chun-fat, who scored twice.

The Swedes beat the Manila Turba Terminal selection by eight goals to nil. The half time score was 4-0.—Reuter.

DIVORCE DECREE AGAINST DENIS COMPTON

Judge Dale, sitting as a Divorce Commissioner, on December 2 granted Mrs Doris Yvonne Compton, of Thetford Road, Ixworth, near Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, a decree nisi of divorce on the ground of the adultery of her husband, Mr Denis Charles Scott Compton. The parties were married in 1941. The suit was undefended.



Divided Opinions At Strasbourg

THE Assembly of the Council of Europe met at Strasbourg in a somewhat despondent mood. Many delegates have begun to feel that unless there is some progress made fairly soon towards uniting Europe, they might as well abandon the "Strasbourg Experiment" altogether.

The main cause of frustration has been the stubborn and "reactionary" attitude of the Council's Committee of Ministers. The Ministers—minus Mr. Bevin, who, apparently, had more pressing things to do—firmly sat on most of the Assembly's recommendations when they met in Rome earlier this month. The latter's proposals for revising the Statute of the Council were referred to a group of "experts" for study. The question of a European Army was shelved—on British initiative. In fact, apart from signing a Convention on human rights, the only recommendations of the Assembly that the Ministers approved were those on full employment and a social security code. Small wonder that M. Spaak has shown impatience at his Assembly's work—he is its president—being treated in this way.

PATIENCE GONE

NOW an event has occurred that has already been of significance for this last week's session at Strasbourg. M. Guy Mollet, Minister for European Affairs in the French Cabinet, has resigned his position as rapporteur of the Assembly's General Affairs Committee. This brilliant French Socialist has been the chief protagonist of compromise between the British and Continental approaches to European unity. In saying why he had resigned he disclosed that he had been largely influenced by recent debates in national parliaments.

M. Mollet obviously had in mind this week's "European" debates in the French Assembly and British Commons. In the French debate Messrs. Reynaud and Bidault, former Premiers, called for a stronger European Council, even if that meant excluding Britain who was still dragging her feet. Reynaud, in his speech, reproached Mollet for rejecting "this idea of a 'limited federation' (of France, Italy and Germany). This the latter has always opposed on the grounds that it would be a disaster both for France and Europe.

DOOR SHUT

THE British debate saw Ernest Davies, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, firmly shut the door in the face of any sort of federation. The British Government, said Mr. Davies, could not commit itself in advance to accept every recommendation of the Council of Europe, nor delegate any sovereignty that might entail interference with the country's planned economy. Conservatives, in essentials, differed little from the Government. Duncan Sandys, Mr. Churchill's

son-in-law, defined the Council's role as one of review over the activities of various inter-governmental bodies.

M. Mollet's resignation has now resulted in a vote being taken in the Assembly's General Affairs Committee, at the instance of its new rapporteur, Miss Marga Klompe of the Netherlands, on the question of limited federation. Eleven were for encouraging those countries to federate which wished to do so (i.e. without Britain and the Scandinavian countries, who don't wish to); ten were against; and four abstained. The vote cannot be put into effect as it does not give the required two-thirds majority. But it does show how deeply the Council of Europe is split over the question of its future.

THE CRUX

THE crux of the difference between the French (and Continental) and British (and Scandinavian) approaches is that France is prepared to surrender some of her sovereign rights; Britain is not. The idea of a united Europe is strongly believed in by Frenchmen who regard it as the only possible solution to the problem of Germany and Franco-German wars. And Europe, they believe, can only be united through federation. Britain, on the other hand, because of her geographical position, her ties with the Commonwealth, and her traditional way of thinking, does not feel the same urgency for European unity. And she believes, in any case, that such unity should be sought through "functional" methods—through co-operation between Governments in the OEEC style.

One British voice, Mr. R. W. G. Mackay, Labour M.P., suggests a compromise between federalism and functionalism: to merge the OEEC, Brussels Treaty and Atlantic Pact organisations into the machinery of the Council of Europe which would become a Parliament of two Houses. The Committee of Ministers would be the Upper House with power to veto any legislation passed by the Assembly (Lower House). There are certain difficulties to this—e.g. concerning the Atlantic Pact.

HAMSTRUNG

MEANWHILE the Assembly itself, hamstrung by the Ministers and split into opposing groups, is in a state of suspended animation. True, it was originally conceived as a body for creating Europe opinion, not as an executive authority. True, since OEEC, the Brussels Treaty and the Atlantic Organisation cover almost all the field of European co-operation there is little left for the Assembly to do except talk—and then only on prescribed subjects. (By discussing defence and advocating a European Army it has, strictly speaking, gone outside its sphere.) But there is a fear among delegates that unless they can translate some of their resolutions into action, the Council of Europe will eventually die of inertia. At present,

FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

Stockpiling Presenting Experts With Problems

(OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

London, Dec. 10.

One of the problems facing the Anglo-American working party which was set up following the talks between Mr. Attlee and President Truman on the economic implications of Western European defence programmes will be to decide to what extent American stockpiling purchases are depriving Western European industries of their "fair share" of raw materials. And having decided, to do something about it.

Few people would disagree in principle with the American stockpiling policy. Its purpose is to build up stocks to ensure that in the event of war American industries would not be handicapped by shortage of raw materials.

There is, however, a growing degree of resentment in Western European governmental and industrial circles over the rate at which the American stockpile is being accumulated.

The actual amounts of raw materials which the American stockpile aims to absorb have

in the words of a British M.P., academic and disillusioned debating society.

THOREZ CALLED

THE dramatic removal by Soviet plane to Moscow of Maurice Thorez, Secretary-General of the French Communist Party, has set the international political gossips talking this week. According to the Russians M. Thorez, who is suffering from partial paralysis of the brain, is to undergo treatment in a Soviet clinic. But this can hardly be the real reason since presumably he could have been treated just as well in France.

The most plausible explanation so far put forward is that Thorez has been taken to Moscow because he is, at present, a poor security risk for Russia. It is significant that a member of the Health Commission attached to the N.K.V.D. (Soviet Secret Police) is known to have accompanied the Russian doctor who examined Thorez in Paris. Should the French Communist Party be forced underground, it could not look after its leader in his weak condition. Left alone, he might have been guilty of "Trotskyist" indiscretions. A considerable nationalist element exists in the Communist Party of France today.

CHOICE OF SUCCESSOR

THIS theory is strengthened by the fact that Auguste Lecœur, considered Thorez's most likely successor, flew to Russia with his chief. Should Thorez be forced to resign, Lecœur may well return to Paris wearing the sick man's mantle. On the other hand, it is Japanese Duclos who is at present acting as the Party's Secretary-General.

But the choice of a successor to Thorez, top Communist of Western Europe and leader of the French Communists for the last twenty years, will in any case be difficult. A lot will depend on the role that Moscow maps out for the French Communist Party in the future.

ROMAN MODESTY

"WHEN in Rome, do as the Romans do". A French lady in the Italian capital this summer was foolish enough to ignore this well-known precept. She went to a restaurant in an evening dress whose cut, it seems, drew indignant and public criticism from three Christian Democrat deputies who happened to be dining there. This week, in the Italian Chamber, the behaviour of these worthy gentlemen was mentioned during a question about the recent order that nude statues were to be displayed. The Government's reply was that since the lady concerned had sued the three deputies the matter was sub-judice. As for the lady, that was a question of custom and manners. How modesty-minded Signor de Gasperi's Government seems suddenly to have become!

always been and remain a closely-guarded secret. But the following figures give some idea of the extent of this "non-commercial" demand which has upset the world markets.

It has been reported that the stockpile has already absorbed 400,000 (short) tons of copper. It aims to accumulate 2,500,000 tons—roughly the amount that is expected to be produced in the whole world during 1950. The price of copper has increased by over 300 percent since 1939.

The stockpile is absorbing tin at an annual rate of between 50,000 and 60,000 tons a year. Its aim is to build up a stock of 250,000 tons—equivalent to about one and a half years' production at the present rate. The price of tin has increased by nearly 1,000 percent since 1939.

TOTAL OF 78 ITEMS

The stockpile also aims to accumulate 3,750,000 tons of manganese (2,752,000 tons more than it has so far); 1,000,000 tons of rubber (equal to more than half the total estimated world production of 1950); and to add 10,000,000 lbs of tungsten to its present reserves of 47,000,000 lbs.

The stockpile is also absorbing other scarce raw materials such as sisal, aluminium, zinc, nickel, cobalt, chrome and lead. The price of all these raw materials has increased considerably since 1939.

Altogether there are 78 items on the list of materials which are being stockpiled.

The danger of this huge programme is twofold: it is largely responsible for the alarming rise in the price of certain raw materials and it is depriving industries of other countries in the Western Alliance of the means to carry out their own

contribution to the common defence programme.

BRITAIN CO-OPERATES

The United States Government has taken strict measures to control civilian consumption of certain raw materials but the amounts thus set free have not been made available to other Western countries—they have merely been transferred to the stockpile. The fact that these controls have been imposed, however, makes it difficult for Americans to understand the European point of view.

Before the United States Government agrees to cut down its stockpiling purchases it will require evidence that Western European countries are themselves taking steps to control civilian consumption. So far as Britain is concerned these steps have now been taken. The Government this week ordered cuts in the consumption of zinc, copper, aluminium and nickel.

There is still room, however, for a much greater degree of co-operation in the allocation of essential raw materials to those countries which form the North Atlantic Alliance.

THE COLOMBO PLAN

Britain has taken the lead in making money available to finance the Colombo plan for economic development in south and south-east Asia by announcing the rate at which Sterling balances held by India and Ceylon will be released during the next six years.

Sterling balances held by India will be released at the rate of £35,000,000 for each of the six years covered by the plan, and Ceylon will be able to draw £21,000,000 of its Sterling balances during the period July 1, 1950 to June 30, 1957.

Negotiations with Pakistan regarding her Sterling balances are still proceeding and agreement is expected soon.

Although these announcements were undoubtedly designed to give the Colombo plan a flying start not everybody is satisfied that our economy can stand the strain of such large releases. Countries to which releases are to be made will receive them in the form of capital goods to assist their development programmes. We are thus back to the old problem of "unrequited exports."

If world conditions were what we wished them to be these releases would not impose too great a strain on our economy. But it should be remembered that they will be drawn during a period when this country is actively rearming—and all the while the terms of trade are moving against us, necessitating even greater efforts to increase our exports. This three-way stretch may yet prove to be more than our economic fabric can stand.

Whether events prove we have bitten off more than we can chew or not, the fact remains that the gesture has been made and it is to be hoped that this British initiative will not be wasted. Refusal to enter counter-claims for war expenditure by this country is proof of Britain's intention to translate the idea that was born at Colombo into action as soon as possible.

STANDARD BRIDGE

by M. Harrison-Gray

Dealer: East.

Love all.

N.

♠ A K Q 7 6 3 2

♥ J 7 3

♦ Q 10

♠ 10 8 6 4 3 2

♥ J 10 8 4

♦ A K

♠ A 8

S.

♠ K J 7

♥ 9 5

♦ A 10 8 4

♠ K 5 3

When this deal occurred in rubber bridge, there were three passes up to North. Normally his hand would be too strong for a pre-emptive call, especially when not vulnerable, but the position is different if he is fourth in hand. Three Hearts is now the only common-sense bid. South bid Three No Trumps and all passed. West led ♠ 4 to East's ♠ A, and ♠ Q was returned. South could now afford the luxury of ducking a round of Hearts to guard against a 4-0 division. East's play at trick 1 was weak; the play of ♠ Q could not lose anything, and would have left South in doubt as to the location of ♠ A. The necessary safety play in Hearts would then have appeared too risky.

London Express-Scorpion.

PEKING READY TO TALK PEACE

Prepared To Stop At Parallel For Further Negotiations

Apparently Willing To Discuss Their Own Terms

Lake Success, Dec. 10.

A meeting of the 13 Asian and Middle East nations who made the "Stop at the 38th Parallel" appeal to the Communists in Korea was called for today on an emergency basis. The meeting had been scheduled for tomorrow.

Vietnamese Decide Not To Evacuate

Paris, Dec. 10.

The Vietnamese Council of Ministers today decided against any measure of evacuation in North Vietnam which "might give a mistaken idea of the extent of the imminence of any danger in the Red River Delta," Agence France Presse reported from Saigon.

The evacuation of French women and children from the Tongking "rice bowl" delta bridgehead in North Vietnam has been going on for several days.

The Vietnamese Council of Ministers decided to send the Armed Forces Minister to the north to inspect the Vietnamese forces and take "measures imposed by circumstances" in agreement with the French Command.

It also decided that the Vietnamese Army should be formed without conscription.

The conference was attended by Bao Dai, head of the State of Vietnam, who had spent four days in Saigon, and the Governors of North, Central and South Vietnam.

Bao Dai flew back to Dalat, his residence in Southern Vietnam, after the conference, the French news agency said.—Reuter.

Britain And America May Be In Conflict Over Peace Moves

Washington, Dec. 10.

Diplomatic officials here wanted to know today what price the Chinese Communists would demand if they agreed to halt their Korean offensive at the 38th Parallel.

The State Department declined to comment and the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr Tom Connally, would not speculate on what might be in the wind.

Other sources noted that the Chinese are said to be demanding full discussion of all Far Eastern problems as a basis for settlement of the Korean war, demanding admission to the United Nations and transfer of Formosa to the Peking government.

Diplomatic authorities, thought this might create a difficult political situation in the United Nations by dramatizing the differences between Britain and the United States over long-range policy in Asia.

They speculated that the Communist agreement to "peace discussions" might well split the world organisation into two conflicting bodies of opinion on the question of just how "broad" negotiations should be.

The differences between Bri-

The Indian delegation, which has been taking the leading part in the negotiations here with the Chinese Communist delegation, received new instructions from its government today.

These were believed to have been sufficiently encouraging to warrant quick action.

India and the 12 other nations who made the appeal are expected to call tomorrow for an immediate cease-fire in Korea. Observers here believed that both sides in the conflict will agree to heed the call.

Tonight's meeting, which will be held in the home of Sir Benegal Narsing Rau, chief Indian delegate, was called to put the finishing touches to the resolution which it now appears likely will be introduced into the United Nations' Political Committee tomorrow.

The resolution, it was understood, is a short one without any preamble and containing two main conditions:

- (1) An immediate cease-fire on the 38th Parallel.
- (2) Establishment of a demilitarised zone along the Parallel, pending negotiations.

"ENCOURAGING"

Usually well-informed sources said that the last meeting here between Sir Benegal Rau and Mr Wu Hsiu-chuan, head of the Peking delegation, was held in an "encouraging atmosphere."

This also applied to a meeting between Mr Trygve Lie, United Nations Secretary-General, and Mr Wu yesterday.

Though the Peking Government has made no direct promise yet that it would agree to a cease-fire on the 38th Parallel, there were strong indications from many sides

that the Communists, in effect, agree to stop fighting to start negotiations.

What the basis of those negotiations will be is still uncertain, though reports reaching Indian sources said that the Chinese Communist Government wanted an overall discussion of Asian problems by Britain, America, Russia and China.

NO QUIBBLES

Indian delegation circles here expressed the view that this is not the time to quibble about any basis for negotiations but that the main task is to stop the fighting as soon as possible.

Sir Benegal said yesterday that talks with Communist China indicated that she was giving "careful consideration" to the 13-nation appeal to halt her forces at the 38th Parallel.

The Peking Government was "desirous of bringing fighting to an end as early as possible," he told reporters after an 80-minute talk with Mr Wu.

Usually well-informed United Nations circles said that the Chinese Communist Government was prepared to attend a roundtable conference with the United States, Russia and Britain for an overall settlement of all the issues in the Far Eastern crisis—but only on a footing of absolute equality.

China was also reported to want a "peaceful solution" of all issues, including Formosa as well as Korea.

Sir Benegal tonight denied a news agency report in New York that India had received assurances from the Chinese Communists that their forces would not cross the 38th Parallel.

NO ASSURANCES

Sir Benegal said that he had received no such assurances from any source.

He confirmed previous reports to the effect that while the Chinese Communists had not said that they would heed a cease-fire request from the United Nations, India and the 12 other Asian nations were proceeding with a resolution for a cease-fire under the firm hope that such a proposal would not be unacceptable to the Chinese Communists.

Sir Benegal will confer tonight with Mr Ernest Gross, second in command in the American delegation to the United Nations, before he meets at 11 p.m. GMT, with the 12 other Asian delegates on the question of drafting the cease-fire resolution.

There has been no indication of the purpose of the conference between Mr Gross and Sir Benegal.—Reuter.

WILLING TO HALT

Sources near to the Indian delegation said the Chinese Communist representative, General Wu Hsiu-chuan, told Sir Benegal Rau yesterday that the Peking government was willing to halt troops at the Parallel as a basis for negotiations.

General Wu is reported to have said that no formal reply to the 13-nation appeal for a



Yvonne spent her holiday enticingly in the middle of the Spider's Web, catching the sun. She intended to become a school mistress, but she took to modelling and film work instead. Picture was taken at the Spider's Web pool in Hertford.

A Breather Achieved

London, Dec. 10.

The Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, will come home early next week to expressions of approval from Western Europe for helping to avert what looked 10 days ago like the curtain-raiser to World War III.

The nations of Europe except for the Communists, welcomed the results of the Truman-Attlee conference as a victory for their "no war with China" policy.

The Attlee-Truman pronouncement had not entirely satisfied some sections of statesmen and the press, but there was general relief that a "breather" had been achieved.

This was underlined by the report that the Big Three diplomats in Paris had agreed to invite the Soviet Union into a Big Four peace conference and that the Chiefs of Staff were meeting here on Tuesday to polish the plan for an Atlantic Army under General Dwight Eisenhower.—United Press.

halt at the Parallel would be made because official Chinese acceptance of it might "weaken our moral stand". The reply to the appeal would be given on the battlefield, General Wu was reported as saying.

Sir Benegal told reporters yesterday that General Wu had informed him Peking was giving "careful consideration" to the appeal and was desirous to bring the fighting to an end as early as possible.

General Wu gave Sir Benegal no iron-clad guarantees because several other diplomatic questions had to be resolved.

The Chinese "reply" was made with the tacit understanding that the United Nations forces would also respect the Parallel line and not reinvade North Korea.

The Indians indicated that the earlier appeal was drafted with this implication, and although no official Western reaction was available here, it was believed the West would abide by it.—United Press.

Kashmir Issue

Srinagar, Dec. 10.

The Kashmir Chief Minister, Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, told a public meeting in the border town of Uri tonight that the decisions of the State Constituent Assembly, proposed to be set up next year, would apply to Pakistan-held areas also.

The Assembly is intended to decide "for ever" the issue of Kashmir's accession to India or Pakistan if the United Nations Security Council had not resolved the Kashmir dispute by that time.

Abdullah told peasants today that the Assembly would have reserved seats for representatives from Pakistan-held areas.—Reuter.

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NOTICE

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of THE HONGKONG SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

will be held in St. John's Cathedral Hall on Thursday, December 14 at 5.30 p.m.

All interested in Child Welfare are cordially invited to attend.

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